

BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION OF JASPER COUNTY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 13, 2018

PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Arzillo; Mrs. Denise Davidson; Mr. John Kemp; Ms. Carrie Fair; Mr. Rodney Catterton and the Director Ms. Jeanine Bostick.

ABSENT: Vice Chairperson Pamela M. Williams

NOTIFICATION TO THE MEDIA: Chairman Arzillo announced the media had been notified.

INVOCATION: Ms. Fair.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motioned by Ms. Fair and seconded by Mr. Kemp to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES- NOVEMBER 9, 2018 CANVASS HEARING MINUTES AND NOVEMBER 9, 2018 BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Motioned by Mr. Kemp, seconded by Ms. Fair to approve the above listed minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION: Mr. Patrick Lee, Easy Vote Representative RE: Poll Worker Software Module: Mr. Lee presented to the Board pamphlets and business cards. Mr. Lee showed presentations of how the Poll Worker and Inventory Modules could help improve communication and keep history of Poll Workers and Inventory of voting system. The Poll Workers and Inventory Software is currently being used by Anderson; Beaufort and Charleston counties and several counties in the state of Georgia. Easy Vote has been in business now for five years. Mr. Lee has been with the agency for four years. Several questions were asked from Board Members. The Board will discuss and make its decision on purchasing the Poll Workers and Inventory software at a later time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairperson Karen Wyld of the local Republican Party. Ms. Wyld spoke about the July letter submitted of proposed poll workers. Ms. Wyld stated her reason for being at tonight's meeting was to get clarity of what type of response was being issued to the Republican Party ie., quoting the wrong law for General Election nomination of Poll Workers and ensuring listed poll workers were available to work before listing their names on a proposed list. Chairman Arzillo asked Ms. Wyld to get with him about her concerns and he and the Director could provide a letter of response if the Board felt it was necessary.

NEW BUSINESS: Better Signage for the Voter Registration Office: The Director informed the Board she had received several concerns about not having better signage at the entrance of our complex to identify our office exact location. It was suggested to speak with Public Works and SCDOT to see if a county road sign could be added.

November 2018 General Election Overview RE: Absentee (Mr. Kemp): Mr. Kemp distributed to the Board and the Director a printout he did from the election results. Mr. Kemp checked four precincts. Mr. Kemp checked to see if the votes on the signed poll list and the number on votes on the iVotronic voting machines were the same. Mr. Kemp found that the number of signatures on the signed poll list did match the number of votes on the iVotronic voting machines. Mr. Kemp also listed there were 40 absentee applications that were not returned to the Voter Registration Office. Mr. Kemp felt the Board should be concern as to why a voter would request an absentee application and not return the application to receive an absentee ballot. Mr. Kemp felt perhaps we should contact the voter, however, the State advised against doing so. Mr. Kemp identified two voters whose absentee application was returned but ballots were never issued. The one voter was deceased, therefore no ballot was sent and the second voter absentee application was received in the Voter Registration Office on Monday, November 5th and therefore it was too late to mail the Voter a ballot. The Director stated there were a total of nine ballots returned in the Voter Registration Office after the election date.

DISCUSSION: Republican Party July 2018 Poll Workers Letter (Mr. Kemp): Mr. Kemp stated he felt a letter of response was necessary to address what workers were used, weren't used and why they weren't used. Mr. Kemp stated when the letter from the Republican Party was submitted for the Special General Election the SC Law 7-13-72 was quoted, however that law only pertains to Primary Elections, therefore it should not have been listed in the letter. Mr. Kemp also mentioned and suggested the political parties submitting these proposed poll workers letters should be sure the individuals listed are available to work before listing their names on a proposed list. Mr. Kemp also mentioned the Board and the Director decides the poll workers assignments and not the political parties as it was suggested in the letter that was submitted to the Board.

STATUS OF BUDGET: Director, Jeanine: The Director informed the Board the Office Equipment Funds available is currently \$19,795.36 and if the Board wanted to used these funds to refurbish the office it is there to be used.

EQUIPMENT INVENTORY: Director, Jeanine: The Director distributed to the Board a list of the current inventory of voting machines; printers; flash cards; PEBs; and Laptops. The Director informed the Board the State has advised all counties not to purchase any additional voting machines. The State has requested vendors to go through the certification process to submit bids for a new voting system for the state of South Carolina. The State is confident the funding will be awarded and a new voting system would be in place by January 1, 2020. The State would provide the number of machines based on the total number of registered voters per county.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Director asked the Board did we want to submit a letter to the Jasper Delegation being the County Attorney stated he is working with our delegation to amend or do away with the 1985 Act 278 BBB Jasper County School Board filing law. Mr. Kemp motioned to have a letter sent to the delegation. The motion was not seconded, therefore the motion failed.

The Director informed the Board the State is looking at charging a flat annual rate for training instead of the current \$25 per training course. Each county flat rate would vary.

The Director informed the Board in their packet was a letter invoicing the City of Hardeeville for their portion of the City of Hardeeville Election combined with the Statewide General Election. The letter would be mailed to the City of Hardeeville on Friday, December 14, 2018 per the Director.

Total registered voters as November 25, 2018: **18,924** increase of 110.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: None.

BOARD ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Review of ALL Election notifications to the public via newspapers/internet/radio, etc. that the Board is responsible for by law: Ms. Fair stated there are persons that doesn't read the newspapers; doesn't have internet services or doesn't listen to the radio. Ms. Fair felt it was necessary to advertise election notices using all entities. Ms. Fair asked the Director what notices were we responsible for publishing. The Director responded the Primary and General Elections per the South Carolina Voter Registration and Election Laws manual.

Training of Clerks when assigned and/or sent out to a new or familiar precincts, re: ADA Compliance; Setup, etc.: Ms. Fair stated in future trainings she would like to see training of arranging precinct set ups to meet ADA Compliance.

Behavior, Professionalism of Workers at the Precincts: Ms. Fair commented on an incident at the Pineland Precinct and would like to see in future trainings topics of behavior and professionalism of workers.

ID Badges for Board Members: Ms. Fair asked the Director to please check into ordering name badges for Board Members.

Comparison of Pay for Clerks and Poll Managers with other counties and seek to increase pay based on merit: Ms. Fair stated she would like to request additional pay for the poll workers in hopes of recruiting more poll workers.

TOPIC(S) OF DISCUSSION FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Discussion: Preparing for 2020 Elections (Mr. Kemp)
- Discussion: Update Absentee Guidelines (Mr. Kemp)
- Discussion: Having Supportive Evidence at Meetings Based on Agenda (Mr. Kemp)
- Discussion: Adding Additional Precincts (Mr. Kemp)
- Discussion: Easy Vote Poll Workers and Inventory Modules

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business motion to adjourn by Mr. Kemp, seconded by Ms. Fair. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jeanine M. Bostick, Director

cc: File; Board Members; Mr. Andrew Fulghum, County Administrator; Jasper County Delegation